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KYODAN EXECUTIVE ACTS ON PERSONNEL CHANGES

Acting in lieu of the General Assembly originally scheduled for this fall, the Kyodan Executive Committee, meeting in its 25th session on Oct. 23-24, designated persons for important leadership posts during the interim until the General Assembly is held and took new steps to hasten the convening of the Assembly.

Following the previous Executive Committee meeting's action in acknowledging the resignation of Moderator Mitsuho Yoshida (see JCAN #416 Aug. 25 pg 2-83) Rev. Kikaku Shimamura, pastor of Fujimicho Church in Tokyo, was elected Acting Moderator, subject to the approval of his board of elders. (On several previous occasions when Shimamura has been nominated or elected to the position of Moderator, his board has refused to allow him to accept because of the time it would take from his pastoral duties.) Rev. Kichiya Kikuchi, pastor of Shitaya Church in Tokyo, was elected Assistant to the Acting Moderator, a position he held under Moderator Yoshida.

In another decision, the Executive Committee named Rev. George Hanabusa as Acting General Secretary, to serve until the General Assembly is held. He succeeds Rev. Toru Takakura, whose four-year term is completed this month. Takakura was elected by the General Assembly of 1968, having formerly served as Kyodan evangelism secretary.

Hanabusa has been on the staff of the Kyodan since 1964 as secretary of the Committee on Ecumenical Ministries. He is also secretary of the Kyodan's Missionary Personnel Committee and of the Commission on the Ministry.

Acknowledging that its own efforts to reach agreement on the calling of the General Assembly had reached a stalemate, the Executive Committee voted to entrust preparations for the holding of the General Assembly to a new preparatory committee, to be made up of one representative from each district, along with several additional laymen and other coopted members.

The present Executive Committee consists of persons elected at the 1968 General Assembly, who are serving extended terms due to the fact that no General Assembly was held in 1970. For the past year, district moderators have been invited to attend executive committee meetings, although without vote, and this has introduced a fresh element and younger voices into the discussions as well as bringing to bear more directly on the executive committee local church and district concerns.

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THE NEW IMAGE OF MAN IN CHINA

What is the meaning of "One Speciality, Many Faculties" (一專多能) --the expression that appears in the Chinese 5.7 Directive with regard to the present division of labour in the Chinese socialist society? Is it for the sake of efficiency? Or as a means to achieve the goal of human liberation? How is this ideal given concrete form in the various peoples' communes in China today?

These were some of the topics discussed heatedly Oct. 6 in a smoke-filled room at the NCCJ offices by nine China experts. It was the second regular monthly meeting of the special NCC Study Project team on "The New Image of Man in China." Inaugurated officially in July, the team had met in September to hear a report on the People's Commune by a member who had made five trips to China after the Great Cultural Revolution. He presented the results of an extensive survey of three major communes plus a detailed replay of his six-hour interview with the women leader of one commune.

The second meeting was led by another member, who by means of his critical appraisal of the report, developed his own view and observations on the socialist division of labour. Other topics discussed included the matter of distribution, the salary-system, relationship between agriculture and industry, the place of the "spirit" in labour, etc.

The team consists of nine persons, each of whom is expected to produce a 16,000-word paper on the sub-theme assigned to him by the end of July, 1973, these in turn to be translated into English by the end of the year for distribution for readers-of-English around the world. Members and their topics are:

Ichiro Yamaguchi, prof., Kobe Univ. - The Common People's Study of Philosophy
Koichi Nomura, prof., St. Paul's Univ. - Party Leadership and the People
Masahisa Suganuma, prof., Honshu Univ. - The Chinese Understanding of Marxism
Toshiro Fujimura, asst. prof., Fukushima Univ. - The Dictatorship of the Proletariat

Keiji Yamada, asst. prof., Kyoto Univ. - Indigenous Technology in China
Reiitsu Kojima, staff, Institute of Developing Economy - Agriculture and Industry in the People's Commune

Yozo Kato, staff, Institute of Oriental Culture, Tokyo Univ. - The Chinese View of Labour

Takayuki Izumi, foreign news desk, Kyodo News Service - Races in China
Yutaka Shishido, lecturer, Gakushuin Univ. - The Role of the People's Liberation Army.

Except for Shishido, who acts as coordinator, all members are non-Christians but first-rate specialists in the area of China studies, in Japan. Says Shishido, a member of the NCC Committee on International Affairs, "It is unfortunate for the world that the very few Japanese works on China that have been translated and introduced to the world are done by rather conservative scholars who generally take a negative position with regard to the Great Cultural Revolution. Although our men have different positions, they have one thing in common, and that is that they all take a positive view toward the Revolution."

NCC General Secretary John Nakajima, who takes administrative responsibility for the Project, explains the purpose of the study in this way: "to provide the world, especially the Christian world, with solid materials for discussion. It is the Christian's duty to take China seriously--not merely as another mission field that should be restored but as a challenge to the Christianity that failed to achieve, during the centuries of its presence in China, the goal that has been partially realized by Communist China today.

KUBUSHIRO DIES

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Rev. Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro, a giant in the history of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Japan, died Oct. 23 at her son's home in Komae, Tokyo. She was 89 years old. Until last year, she was the active president of the WCTU. Her funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Sun. Oct. 29 at Joshi Gakuin, of which she was one of the early graduates. (A fuller story on Mrs. Kubushiro will appear in a later issue of JCAN.)

ZEN RETREAT IN ENGLISH

Father Enomiya-Lasalle, S.J. is no newcomer to the "Japan Scene", but his Christian Zendo, Shinmeikutsu, and its first English-speaking *sesshin* are. Realizing the great benefits *zazen* could bring to Christian prayer, Father Lasalle founded a complex of building near Akigawa, two hours west of Tokyo, which contains a *zendo* or meditation hall, in which retreats are held. Supported by the routine and techniques which traditional *zen* uses, and with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and daily Mass, one has the advantage of benefiting from the asceticism of *zen* to help one meet God on His terms.

Father Lassalle's efforts have won him the respect of the *Zen* masters in Japan, and the presence of two doctors who came from Germany expressly for the first English *Sesshin* (Retreat) in August, is indicative of European appreciation as well. Although Shinmeikutsu has been in operation for three years, the *sesshins* which have proved to be very popular, have always been in Japanese. The first English one in August proved to be a "never to be forgotten experience" for those who participated.

A *sesshin* at Shinmeikutsu is not a retreat for sleep-ins and feasts, discussions and pleasant strolls in the woods. It is a period of intense prayer and happenings, requiring preparation and supervision. For those in the Tokyo area who wish to participate in a *sesshin*, preparatory *zazenkai* (1-day-retreats) are held every Sunday at Shinmeikutsu (each one brings his own lunch) where one is taught how to "sit" and "meditate". If enough people in the Kansai area are interested, *zazenkai* will be organized there. Interested persons may contact: Sister Mary Helen, Notre Dame Women's College, 1 Minami Nongami, Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto-shi 606. Tel: (075) 781-1173. The telephone number at Shinmeikutsu is 0425-29-5537. To-sei News, 10/13/72.

DEAI: THE ENCOUNTER

The 1973 Women's Conference will be held Feb. 2-4 at Amagisanso--on the theme of the encounter of Christianity with Japanese social and religious thought. The Conference will, says the announcement, attempt to explain the problems and potentialities of this encounter as well as what relation the individual has to this encounter.

Mrs. Ayako Hino, of the Baptist World Alliance, will give the keynote of speech. Another lecturer will be Fr. F. Uyttendaele, CICM, of Oriens Institute for Religious Research.

The Women's Conference is an annual event; it is being planned this year by a Sendai committee, headed by Barbara Mensendiek. The meeting draws English-speaking women from many churches. Further details about the 1973 meeting are available from Ms. Mensendiek, 1-38 Komegafukuro 2-chome, Sendai-shi, Miyagi-ken 980. The preliminary closing date for registrations is November 30.

***** Dr. Floyd Shacklock, who worked intently to build the base for literature evangelism in the post-war period, returned to Japan in October to attend the hundredth anniversary of Tō-ō Gijuku School in Hirosaki. Dr. Shacklock served there as a missionary teacher 34 year ago.

At the board meeting of NCC Commission on Literature on Oct. 20, Dr. Shacklock revealed that he has a roll of 16mm film which he took in 1938. The film is entitled "One Day With Kagawa." It starts with a morning prayer in Kagawa's home and follows his various activities throughout the day. Accepting Shacklocks generous offer to give the film to Japan, Chancellor Tomio Muto of Meiji Gakuin, who serves as the chairman of the Commission, pledged that re-production and distribution of the film would be arranged upon consultation with Mrs. Kagawa.

"DANCHI LAMENT"

A 20-minute color filmstrip that presents the laments of persons dwelling in the fast-growing danchi or housing concentrations in Japan is now available from AVACO, the NCC Audio Visuals Commission.

The creative spirit behind the filmstrip is Sister Jacinta, who worked for several years in danchi and in the Ecumenical Research Committee on Danchi Problems in the Osaka area. Cooperation in completing the present filmstrip, which is available with both English and Japanese tapes and scripts, were members of the staff of AVACO.

The filmstrip can be purchased for ¥3,000 the tape for approximately ¥1,500 from AVACO. It can be previewed at the AVACO studies in Tokyo---551 Totsukamachi 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160.

"EVANGELISM" - A SUCCESS

In commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the first Protestant church in Japan, a group of evangelical-minded Christians has been planning a series of evangelistic meetings. The first of these was held on Sat. evening, Oct. 14, at Ginza Church, Tokyo.

The Rev. Yoshio Kimura of Setagaya Nakahara Church (Kyodan) led the meeting. 530 people listened attentively first to the witness of Mrs. Izumi Masuda, who told of receiving God's grace throughout her life as a physically handicapped person and as one-time prisoner in Siberia. Rev. Kikaku Shimamura of Fujimicho Church (Kyodan) preached on Moses' experience at Mt. Horeb. The flame from the burning bush carries the passion of burning away all evil spirits for the sake of salvation, he said. "Offering" means not only the offering of money but the offering of one's whole body and spirit for the cause of the gospel. With various illustrations Shimamura appealed to Christians to live a strict life based on faith.

Responding to the exhortation made by Rev. Noboru Hara of Komatsugawa Chrrch (Kyodan), about one hundred persons presented themselves either for baptism or in rededication. More than ¥120,000 (\$400) was received in the offering on the collection plates.

NEW PUBLICATION: "HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF LIVING IN A HOUSING PROJECT"

"Danchi Seikatsu no Chie" is the title of a 260-page paperback in Japanese on 'project living' written by Fr. Jean Waret, M.E.P., an authority on the apostolate in the 'danchi' and familiar to our readers. Published this month by Tokyo Sports Shimbun Co., (¥500), it is the result of a series of interviews conducted this past summer. Its purpose is to give people living in housing projects practical suggestions for a more harmonious integration in the 'new-town' environment.

HOW JAPANESE VIEW THE REST OF THE WORLD

International attitudes of Japanese are the subject of a survey conducted by Prof. George Watanuki, Sophia University Institute of International Relations between May 29--June 5 of this year, reported in the Institute's Research Paper.

In replies received from a random sample of 3,304 persons, three-fourths expressed an interest in world events as reported on TV and in the press, with 1/3 of these claiming strong interest.

The 33 questions in the survey were designed to measure assumptions and attitudes as well as elicit reactions to specific countries and relationships. The report details the range of responses, with some analyses by age. Further analyses will be made by education and other categories.

Below are selected questions and responses, translated from Japanese.

Ques. 1. Various world events are reported on TV and in the newspapers.
To what extent are you interested in such news?

Greatly interested	23.6%
Somewhat interested	51.6
Have almost no interest	17.0
Have no interest at all	6.5
Uncertain	1.3

Ques. 2 How do you rate your feelings toward the following countries?

	Most trusted country	Most feared country	Most liked country	Most disliked country
United States	15.5%	13.0%	12.6%	7.8%
West European countries	4.4	0.5	25.8	0.4
USSR	0.6	22.6	0.7	16.9
China	2.5	13.1	2.9	4.4
Taiwan	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3
Korea	0.2	0.8	0.5	5.0
Other Asian countries	0.8	1.8	2.4	1.8
Others	0.6	0.5	3.6	1.2
No such country	33.2	12.6	27.4	35.6
All are so	1.1	3.1	1.4	0.9
Uncertain	40.9	32.1	22.2	25.8

With regard to feelings toward the people of the following countries, the following tabulation appears.

	People to whom I feel most friendly	People I feel to be most reliable
Europeans	8.8%	7.5%
Americans	16.0	11.4
Russians	0.4	0.8
Asians	30.2	14.4
Africans	1.4	0.7
Others	0.6	0.5
No such feelings	24.5	35.2
Uncertain	18.2	29.6

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Ques. 23 What threat do you feel to be the source of greatest anxiety at the present time?

Attack from communist countries	7.4%
The possibility of Japan's becoming involved in war as a result of her cooperation with America's policies in Asia	37.6
The possibility that something may happen as a result of the unsettled conditions in Asia close to Japan	23.1
Somehow I just feel uneasy	28.3
Other	1.0
None of these	1.0
Uncertain	1.6

Ques. 24 Various statements have been made with regard to methods of maintaining Japan's independence and security. Among the following statements, which one points in the direction you think Japan should take?

Without relying on America's power, Japan should increase its Security Forces and protect the country with its own efforts	11.3%
We should ready Self-Defense Forces as necessary against the background of the U.S. Security Treaty	17.0
Without relying on the Security Treaty and decreasing the size of the Self Defense Force, we should make other countries understand Japan's position	20.0
We should aim at discontinuing the Security Treaty with the U.S., get rid of the Self Defense Forces and get others to recognize Japan as a peaceful nation without military forces	19.3
We should cut our ties with America, get rid of our present Self Defense Forces and raise up a new Self Defense power	3.9
Cther	1.8
Uncertain	26.7

Ques. 25 On May 15 Okinawa was returned to Japan, but the fact that even after reversion a large number of American bases remain is an issue. What is your opinion about this? With which of the following statements do you agree?

- A. It is inevitable that a large U.S. military base remain on Okinawa but inasmuch as the government has been assured by the U.S. that there will be no atomic weapons on Okinawa and that all conditions will be the same as on the mainland, there is nothing to worry about.
- B. The fact that a large U.S. military base remains on Okinawa is totally unsatisfactory; there is anxiety over whether the above assurances by the U.S. will actually be kept.

Agree with A	9.8	
Of the two, I agree more with A	10.5] 20.3
I don't agree with either	10.6	
Of the two I agree more with B	27.1	
I agree with B	29.3] 56.4
Uncertain	12.7	